

Where to find free stuff online

Photos, videos, and music are everywhere, but a lot of what we find online is protected by copyright law. Where should you look when you want to freely and legally use media in public presentations, websites, social media, and creative projects?

Photography and illustration

Sites like **Unsplash** and **Pixabay** offer troves of images to share and reuse for almost any purpose. Other sites like **Wikimedia Commons**, **Flickr** and **Vecteezy** include lots and lots of images you can use, but you will need to check the details to learn more about *how* you can use them when you see labels like “Creative Commons” or “Free License.”

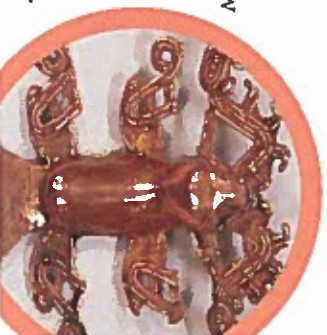


Videos, film, and news footage

The **Internet Archive Moving Image Archive** is a great place to find everything from found footage to classic public domain films. Most film here is free to use, but double-check the “rights” information for each item. **Vimeo** and **YouTube** also let you filter to search for “Creative Commons” uploads.

Music and sound

SoundCloud lets creators specify how they want others to use their music. Look for the © in the search filter to find music you can share and modify. **IMSLP** and the **Choral Public Domain Library** offer access to sheet music and some recordings.



Museum and library collections

Cultural institutions are increasingly putting their collections out there for all of us to find. Sites like the **Library of Congress**, **New York Public Library Digital Collections**, **HathiTrust**, the **Metropolitan Museum of Art**, and **Europeana** are good starting points because they let you easily customize your search settings to find materials that are in the public domain and no longer protected by U.S. copyright law.



Images: Jen Palmer, Alligator birds-eye view. Unsplash; Alligator Pendant, 11-16th century. Metropolitan Museum of Art; Abu'l Qasim Firdausi, Folio from a Shahnama (Book of Kings) of Firdausi. ca. 1610. Metropolitan Museum of Art.

A few tips

- Look for **CC**. Materials marked with a Creative Commons label or license are OK to use if you give credit. Some CC licenses come with conditions like “noncommercial use only.”
- Phrases like “openly licensed,” “free-to-use,” and “public domain” are also signs that you may have found materials you can use.
- Even though it's free and legal to use, you still need to cite it! Crediting sources is an ethical requirement and helps us avoid plagiarism.

Need help? Email copyright@uflib.ufl.edu